



Kentucky State University

October 2010

KSU, HUD Announce Partnership For Fair Housing

John Trasviña, assistant secretary of fair housing and equal opportunity for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Kentucky State University President Mary Evans Sias jointly announced Oct. 14 the Fair Housing Innovative Education Program at KSU, which will include courses and curriculum to educate students about fair housing and how to advocate on behalf of others, internships within the department and opportunities to help the department monitor fair housing practices in the area.



John Trasviña

Trasviña and Sias introduced the program at the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights 50th Anniversary Civil and Human Rights Conference in Louisville, Ky., and then traveled to KSU for a luncheon, in which they explained the program to a group of students, faculty, administrators, legislators and community members.

Afterward, Trasviña and his staff met with a group of KSU students to discuss their involvement on campus, how they could help promote the new program and their experiences with housing in Frankfort. What the HUD representatives found was that many KSU students were passionate about educating their peers about their rights.

Sias related her experience as a student looking for off-campus housing. She found a perfect apartment when she was in graduate school at the University of Wisconsin. She applied in person and was not given the apartment. She later heard from her classmates that the landlady would not rent to her because of her preconceived notions about African American women. Sias fought the denial, won and had the landlady pay her rent at another apartment for the rest of her graduate career in Wisconsin.

“We think that (housing discrimination) is not a significant issue now, but that is not true,” Sias said. “There is a need for enforcement and a need for knowledge.”

The HUD representatives asked the students the best way to engage KSU students in the new initiative and to communicate their housing rights to them. Among other ideas, the students encouraged HUD to use social media, to plan an event and to target second-semester freshmen and first-semester sophomores who will be considering off-campus housing in the future.



Senior LaTashi Battle (right) tells her story to Krista Mills, Louisville field office director, and John Trasviña, assistant secretary for HUD.



KSU President Mary Evans Sias and John Trasviña, assistant secretary for HUD, are joined by students after a special session discussing their housing concerns.

Kentucky State University Hosts Regional FBLA Conference



Two high school students complete a word search at an FBLA leadership session.

More than 200 Kentucky high school students learned leadership skills Oct. 22 at the Future Business Leaders of America Region 4 Conference, held at Kentucky State University.

The event, which included an address by Kentucky Secretary of State Trey Grayson, information about financial literacy and college preparation and a fashion show about how to dress professionally, was sponsored by KSU's School of Business and Office of Regional Stewardship and Public Engagement in partnership with FBLA.

KSU Students Sing In 105 Voices Of History Choir For Third Year



Sankara Harouna, Donequa Glasco and Hardin Butts stand with Dr. Carl H. Smith, director of the Concert Choir, before the students leave for Washington, D.C.

Kentucky State University sent three vocalists to Washington in September to participate in the 105 Voices of History, the choir comprising representatives from the nation's 105

historically black colleges and universities. The group, which included KSU juniors Donequa Glasco, Hardin Butts and Sankara Harouna, performed in the Kennedy Center to celebrate National HBCU Week.

The experience allows the nation's best singers from HBCUs to train under some of the finest conductors. They grow as musicians and interact with like-minded individuals, which allows them to build their professional and personal network.

The students also sang alongside "First Lady of Gospel" Shirley Caesar and jazz gospel vocalist Kim Burrell.

This was the third annual 105 Voices of History concert.

Exhibit Teaches WEG Visitors About Technology, Aquaculture

Kentucky State University's Division of Aquaculture introduced the visitors at the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games to "How We Learn Today" with a high-tech booth featuring iPads, a Microsoft Surface multi-user computer and models of iPods, netbook computers, e-readers and smart phones.

All of the technological devices had video streaming to their screens, showing information about aquaculture and teaching visitors about how they could access KSU courses online.

The Division of Aquaculture offers online and downloadable courses through iTunes U, which has content and classes from universities, that already serves students in 17 countries and 37 states.

Visitors also could explore the Microsoft Surface, which allowed multiple people to access content at the same time. Children were frequent visitors to the booth because they loved using the multiple technological devices.

KSU Aquaculture-assisted farmers also provided the freshwater prawns and paddlefish caviar for the Oct. 6 James Beard Foundation's Cooking in the Bluegrass Dinner at the Kentucky Horse Park's Old Farm House.



The KSU Aquaculture exhibit uses models of technology devices to show the many ways students can take courses through Kentucky State University.